

## **SENATE BILL SUMMARY**

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 274

### Florida Springs Protection Act by Senator Constantine

Cites this act as the "Florida Springs Protection Act."  
Provides legislative findings and intent with respect to the need to protect and restore springs and ground water.

Directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to delineate the springsheds of Ichetucknee Spring, Rainbow Spring, Silver Spring, and Wakulla Spring to identify spring protection zones. Directs the DEP to adopt such zones by secretarial order by December 1, 2010. Requires the DEP to adopt total maximum daily loads and basin management action plans for such springs.

Provides additional spring protection measures related to requirements for domestic wastewater treatment facilities, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, and agricultural operations. Authorizes the DEP, the Department of Health, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS) to adopt rules.

Requires certain local governments to adopt a springs protection element as one of the required elements of the comprehensive plan within 18 months after adoption of the springs protection zone.

Includes certain areas of critical state concern and the spring protection zones established by this act among projects that are eligible for certain financial assistance.

Requires the DEP, the DOACS, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District, the St. Johns River Water Management District, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District to assess nitrogen loading and begin implementing management plans within the spring protection zones no later than December 31, 2011. (See bill for details)